

CLAIMS:

1. An image processing method comprising segmentation of an image, said segmentation comprising the steps of
 - computing, for respective pixel locations in the image, information about signs of curvature values of an intensity of the image as a function of pixel location;
 - 5 - assigning pixel locations to different segments, each according to one or more, or a combination of the signs for the pixel location.
2. An image processing method according to Claim 1, comprising
 - assigning each pixel location to respective different type of segments
 - 10 according to whether the signs of the curvature values in two mutually transverse directions at the pixel location are both positive or both negative respectively.
3. An image processing method according to Claim 1, comprising spatially low pass filtering the intensity prior to said computing and computing the information about the sign of curvature from the low pass filtered intensity.
- 15 4. An image processing method according to Claim 3, comprising selecting a bandwidth of said low pass filtering adaptive to a content of the image.
- 20 5. An image processing method according to Claim 1, comprising growing the segments initially determined by said assigning, wherein said growing is conditioned on an amplitude of the curvature values.
- 25 6. An image processing apparatus, comprising
 - a sign of curvature computation unit (14a-c, 18) arranged to compute, for respective pixel locations, information about signs of curvature values of an intensity of the image as a function of pixel location;
 - a segmentation unit (18), arranged to assign pixel locations to different segments each according to one or more, or a combination of the signs for the pixel location.

7. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the segmentation unit (18) is arranged to assign each pixel location to respective different types of segment when the signs of the curvature values in two mutually transverse directions at the pixel location are both positive or both negative respectively.

8. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 6, comprising a spatial low pass filter unit (14a-c), for filtering the intensity prior to said computation of the information about the sign.

9. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 8, comprising a feedback loop for selecting a bandwidth of said low pass filtering adaptive to a count of selected segments.

10. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 8, comprising a feedback loop for selecting a bandwidth of said low pass filtering adaptive to a size of selected segments.

11. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the segmentation unit is arranged to grow the segments initially determined by said assigning, wherein said growing is conditioned on an amplitude of the curvature values.